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The Rainbow Flag

For and on behalf of
ISLAND PUBLISHING CO. LTD.

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And The Pink Triangle

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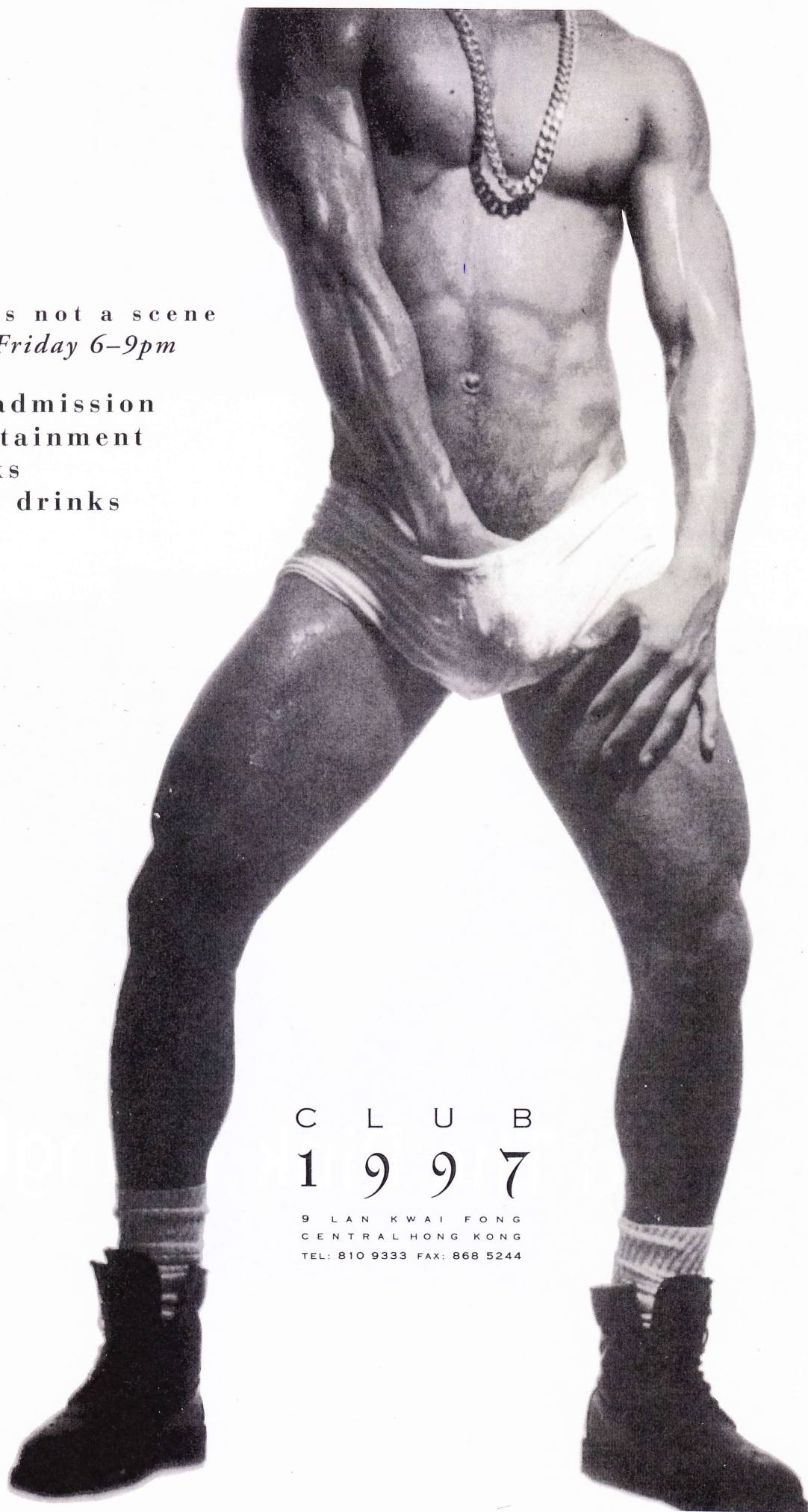
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After reading the Government Consultation Paper on discrimination based on sexual orientation reported elsewhere in this issue we felt bewildered and confused, on the one hand the results of the infamous phone survey indicated that there is, indeed, a very low acceptance of homosexuality in Hong Kong (something any out gay person could have told you, without the benefit of a costly survey).

Conversely, Michael Suen, the Secretary for Home Affairs, was positively purring at the press conference when he reiterated the step by step approach by saying, "We would definitely not build our measures on the basis of a public opinion survey". If that is truly the case, why commission the hated survey in the first place? It makes no kind of sense to us.

What is clear—as crystal—is that the public consultation exercise is over a very short time span. The closing date for all submissions is the 31st March. It is also clear that if the Gay community really wants equal rights and protection under the law every individual and group must get involved in bringing pressure to bear on the Legislative Council and the Home Affairs Branch.

There is only one group in Hong Kong that exists solely to counter-act discrimination—the Gay Coalition. Details of their programmes can also be found in this issue of the magazine. May we urge you to at least give them a call and offer whatever support and help you feel able to commit yourself to.

Copies of the Consultation Document are available from all district offices and the Home Affairs Branch.

This, we are sure, is one issue that simply cannot be ignored in the hope that a few Gay activists will be able on their own to ensure all of our wishes are implemented. We must all be involved to make sure the present and future generations of Gays in Hong Kong are protected by law. April 1st will be too late to say, "I wish I had said or done something for Gay rights."

Contacts Magazine

GPO Box 13427, Hong Kong

Tel: (852) 2817-9447 Fax: (852) 2817-9120

Editor

Barrie Brandon

Design & Layout

Thomas Choi

News & Features

Danny Wong Jason Leung

Advertising & Subscriptions

Tony Ng

Contributors

龍子, Barrie Brandon, Fifi, Femmyh Bosman, Zeljka, Tom Keske, Billy Wong, George Edwards

Who's who?

Vol 3 Number 12

Contents

10

The Pink Triangle

How it started and why

20

CompuServe

Banns groups

22

The Rat

What does the coming
year have in store
for you?

Features

12	Pregnancy
16	Quiz
17	A different view
18	My Nightmare
24	Coalition
27	Update

Regulars

4	Chinese Story
6	Global News
8	Out and About
14	Media Watch
26	Fifi
28	Personals
30	Guide

Front Cover: The Rainbow Flag and The Pink Triangle

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內 與 外



全部人都走了。只剩下要清潔的杯碟和要收拾的地方，每次和朋友相聚後我都會有一份失落感，我並不喜歡這感覺。我已經三十多歲了，到現在我還沒有找到我的另一半。

當我十歲時，我很想快高長大，可以進戲院看成人電影，這個願望在我十八歲生日那天達成。

二十歲時我想盡快找到我的伴侶，但到現在我還未找到。我問朋友為何，他們說「愛情是一種緣份，要到便到，是強求不來的。」說得這樣玄，說了等於沒說。

我趕緊把地方清潔，我不喜歡我的家骯髒，但清潔後會有人讚賞嗎？

我多麼想在夜蘭人靜時他抱著我說「今天辛苦你了。」而我會說「爲了你是值得的。」

他情深款款的望著我親我的咀，這是我的宏願，希望有成真的一天。

朋友喜歡叫我做亞靚，我知道我並不靚，但我不介意他們這樣的稱呼。我的真名叫李丰倫，六呎多高，但只有百二磅，我試過很多方法增肥，但都不成功，試過數次後便沒有再試了。朋友都說我很瘦，十足人乾，但

我想嗎，我也想我的身材象史太龍，有胸肌及三角肌，老鼠仔可以嚇死人那種。但我是亞靚，一個全身皮包骨的六呎二寸的男人。朋友沒有說什麼，還常常讚我的廚藝不錯，可以開班授徒，每逢有什麼派對要預備食物，他們都會一致通過由我做，我從來沒有任何異議，皆因這是我的興趣，我很喜歡下廚，如果有朋友問我唱卡拉OK還是爲他們預備食物，我一定會選後者，因我是一個五音不準的傢伙，我試過在一個生日

派對內唱生日歌，我一開腔其餘的人便已收口，我已知發生什麼了，所以從今以後我也不會在人前獻藝。

今天下班後，我很沮喪，可能是天候的原故吧！我致電志偉找他去看電影，他說「不好意思，我今晚約了亞強，不如你試找路易斯，他可能會有空。」說完便立即掛線了。

我找路易斯，他推說公司很多事要做，沒有空看電影，他還說連午飯也未吃，這是否暗示叫我買飯盒給他。我沒有理他，我再打電話，我希望找到一個人可以陪我看場電影吃一頓晚飯的朋友。統統不是說忙便是有約。找一個人朋友看場電影也這樣難嗎？

我放棄了，我去了桑拿，起碼在那裏可以放下面具，做回自己，在公司不知多倦，每當同事說同志時，我便要假裝是和他們同一陣線，他們說同志變態嗎？我也要說是。但在我心中卻說，你們這班自認爲是健康的正常人，硬要給我們一些罪名，你們才是變態。

當我到達桑拿後，我並不太過心急找人發洩，我喜歡慢慢看，看到合眼緣的才會和他搭訕。

我見到一個後生仔，身材面貌都屬中等，不過不失，我示意喜歡他，他不單沒有望我，相反離開我的視野範圍，於是我尾隨他，但他突然轉身說「亞伯，我不喜歡你呀，唔該你不要死跟著我呀？」

我說「你叫我亞伯？」

他說「如你不信麻煩你自己去廁所照照鏡。」

我已沒有心情玩下去了，換過衫回家。在途中我想著他的話，我真像亞伯，我只有三十二歲，正當盛年，我真不相信他的話。信與不信是一件事，但我已因這句話而不高興了。

回到家，躺在沙發上，很想找人談，但可以找誰呢？數個鐘前不是找過了嗎？他們都說沒空。所以我打開

報紙找導遊，找到一個廣告說：同志你寂寞嗎？想找人談心嗎？還說二十四小時服務，於是我便致電這間導遊社，他們問了我的需要，及告訴我價錢。我說沒有問題後便記下我的地址，說導遊會二小時內到。

還要等二小時，很悶呀！我決定入廚房整蛋糕，起碼可以花去二小時，而且又有得吃，可樂而不爲。

當我的蛋糕差不多弄好時，門鈴響，我想是他了，我開門，在門外站著的是一名學生哥樣子的男生，稍後我才知他已二十六歲了，但他一點也不像他的年齡，如果他說他只有十八歲我也會相信。我有點困窘，不知做什麼，最後還是他說我可以進來嗎？

「要飲些什麼嗎？」

他說「給我一杯白開水可以了。」

「你不要汽水或其他酒類飲品？」

「不要了，我喜歡白開水。」

當我從廚房出來時，他正定神望著我畫的一幅蓮花。

「你也懂水墨畫嗎？在那裏學過？」

「沒有真的學過，只是從前度的男友那裏學到一點點皮毛。」

我們在坐沙發上，他坐在我的另一面。

他說「想我坐坐你的旁邊嗎？」

他知道知己來這裏的目定，很有職業水準。但我卻說「不必了，你坐那裏可以了，我只是想找人談談，沒有其它目的。」

他沒有說什麼，只是用他那對迷人的雙眼望著我。

「好香，是焗餅嗎？」

「是，有沒有興趣嚐嚐我做的餅？」

「求之不得。」來。當他的手觸及我的手時，我只感到他的手很柔軟，很滑。他很大方的讓我拖著他的手。當他看到我的廚房時，他說「你的廚

房很大,什麼東西都有.我都希望可以有一個廚房。」

「來,我們出廳坐。」

我問他「味道怎樣,還過得去吧?」

他說「比大酒店的還要好。」

他問「你為何找導遊?」

於是我便將今天晚上發生的事一一告訴他.他很有耐性聽我說,在我說話時他沒有說一言半句,可能耐性也是他職業所需吧!

我問他「我真像亞伯嗎?你不妨直言,我不想聽假話,我不會怪你。」

他望望我,拿起我的手放在他那柔軟的手上,說「我的手柔軟嗎?」

「很柔軟.很好。」

「我像不像二十六歲?」

「不像.如讓我猜我想你只有十九歲,最多也是二十歲。」

「看,外表便是那樣重要,我真實的年齡是二十六歲,差一個月便二十七了,為何我的手那樣柔軟,皆因我從不做家務,不是我不喜歡,而是人

客不喜歡一雙又粗又大的手.你會喜歡一雙粗大的手嗎?」

我不知說什麼,我沒有答他。

他繼續說「誰不挑一雙又柔又滑的手摸,而去挑一雙粗大的手.我的面沒有留下一點風霜,因我經常到美容院做面.幹我們這行職外在美遠比內在美重要,誰會給錢別人慢慢去發挖他們的內在美。」他喝一口水再說「在同志圈內,又有多少人不是著重別人的外表.在桑拿內那個小伙子說你是亞伯,皆因你又高又瘦,而且你又經常下廚,免不了你的皮膚比別人略粗,我並不是說你醜,只是在那些地方,他們要的是一俱能滿足他們的身軀,和他們交流身體內的熱能。」

「我真的一點外在美也沒有嗎?」

「不是沒有,我喜歡你的唇,薄薄的一片,像有千言萬語要對別人說。」

說完後他吻了我的唇,我亦抱著他的腰吻他。

在床上,他問我「我可否吸煙?」

「我不介意別人抽煙,請自便。」

我們沒有再說話,他抽完煙便起來穿衣。

「你可以留下過夜嗎?」

他答「今天晚上我可以留下,明天後天及將來的晚上我可留下嗎?不可以吧!我始終是靠我肉體為生的人.不像你們,如我是你,我便不介意我的外表,你不是有一份高上的職業嗎?你不是自給自足嗎?朋友問我做什麼我也不敢跟他們說,如我可以選擇我不介意有你的身體和腦袋.做人要對自己要有信心,對不起,今晚我實在說得太多了。」

我給他錢,他數一數說「不需這樣多.這還給你的。」

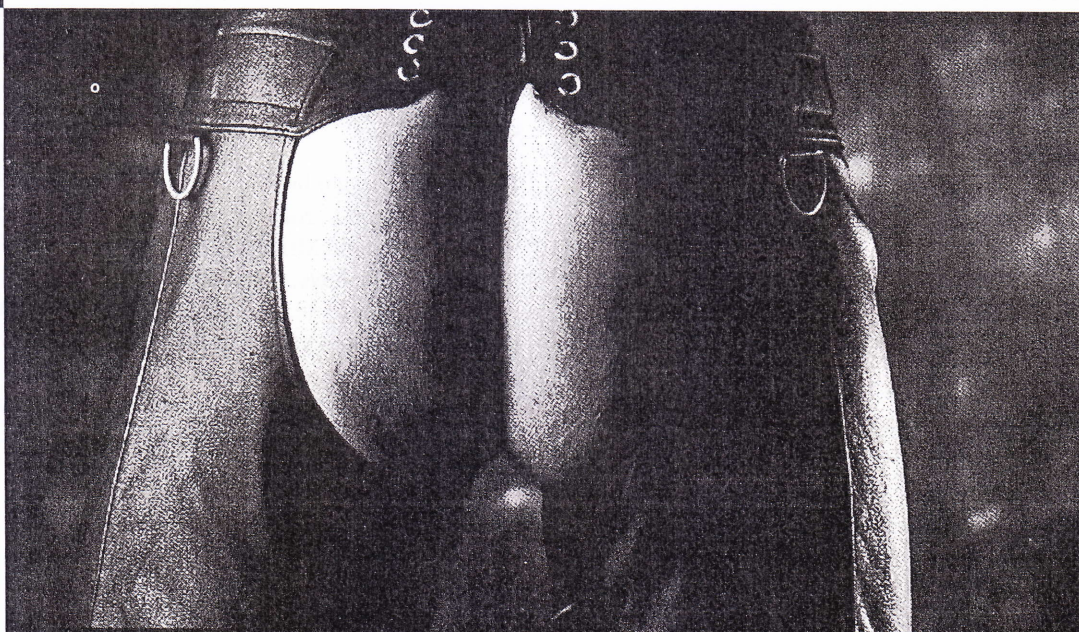
我說「拿去吧,這是你應得的。」

他走後,這間屋子,又再次變得死靜.或許我應該聽他的話要對自己有信心及明天便去美容院和不再不廚。

龍子

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Argentina

Lesbianas a la Vista group marched in the annual Resistance March last week, which honours the citizens "disappeared" under the military dictatorship that ruled the country from 1976 to 1983. They carried a portable jail "with a dozen dolls portraying all the murderers and torturers that are freely walking through Buenos Aires' streets," the group said in a press release.

Australia

Three prisons in the Australian state of New South Wales will install condom-dispensing machines on a trial basis in February. Corrective Services Minister Bob Debus told the *Australian Associated Press*, "Experts in communicable diseases are quite emphatic that condoms will help stop prisons becoming a pool for disease which then spreads through the community."

Belgium

The Catholic University of Leuven has sparked controversy by installing condom dispensers on campus. Student Relations spokesman Prof. Dirk van Gerven called the move a responsible approach to AIDS but others have noted that Catholic doctrine forbids any sex act that is not open to the possibility of pregnancy.

Portugal

Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Guterres, a Socialist, recently told reporters he has no problem with the concept of Gay marriage and legalising it "is not out of the question." In other news, Portugal's first Gay newspaper is scheduled to appear in January, independent from any Gay organisation.

Russia

The first Gay-community centre in the former USSR opened in Moscow Dec. 19. A project of the Gay organisation Triangle, The Gay Community Centre offers cultural programs and art exhibits, runs a Gay archive and a hotline, and provides social and medical support, said spokesman Roman Kalinin. The centre also engages in political lobbying and is helping start a chapter of Parents Friends and Families of Lesbians and Gays. Plans are afoot to erect a monument to the Gay victims of Communism. "From 1933 to 1993, the anti-sodomite law was in force in the Soviet Union," Kalinin said. "Thousands of people were sent to gulags, many of them died and the lives of the rest were crippled."

Canada

The Police Department in Vancouver, B.C., Canada, has assigned two officers to hold weekly office hours at the Gay and Lesbian Centre, reported *Xtra! West*. They will be there every Tuesday, hoping to make the police more accessible to the Gay community.

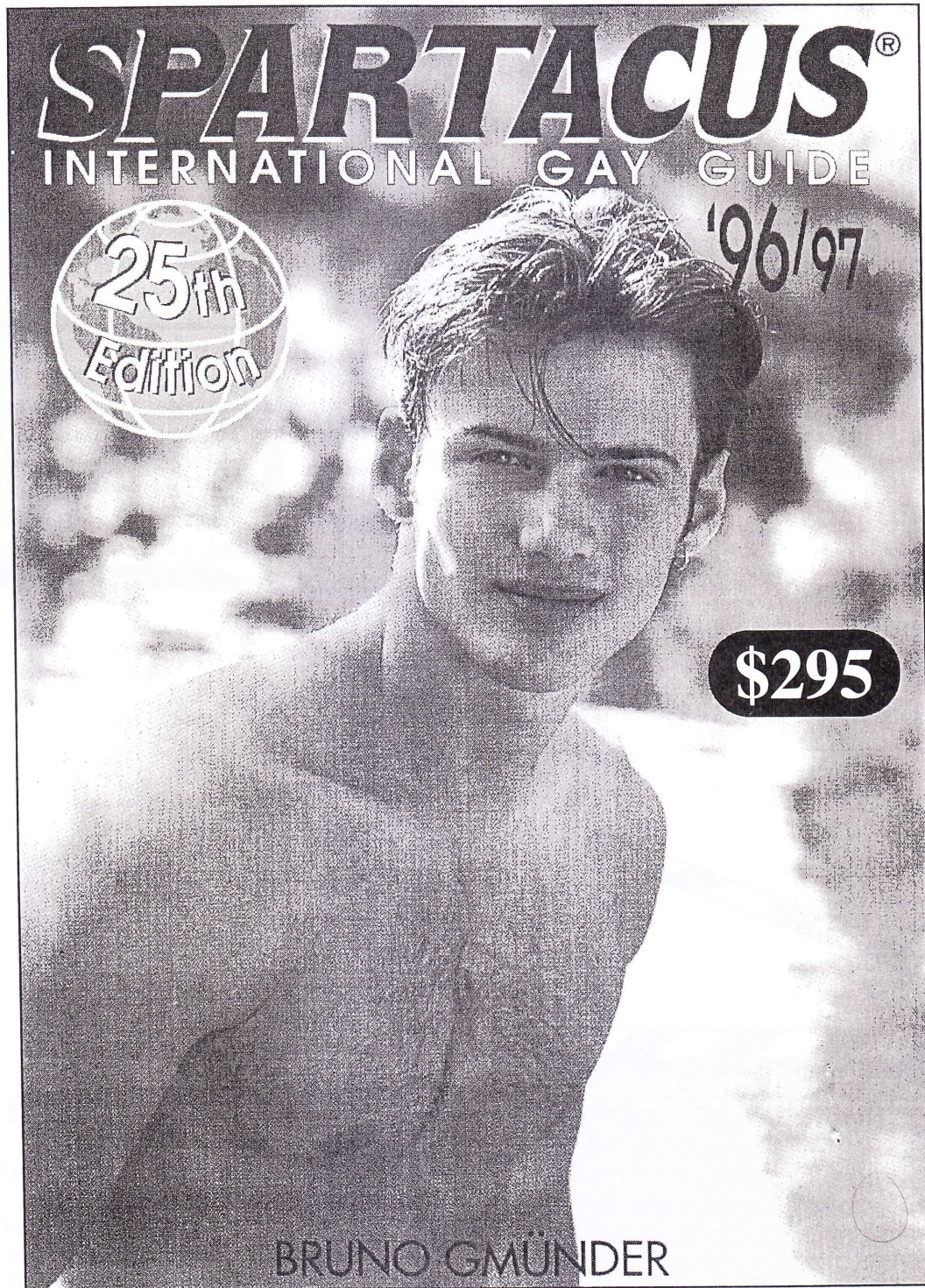
South Africa

Two South African homosexuals have married each other in the country's first cross-racial Gay marriage. Mooriken is of Indian descent and Millard white. Mooriken told Reuters both men took their vows, taken on Friday, seriously. "The main reason for this whole wedding was not the big masquerade it really turned out to be, but actually that we do love each other and that the vows are more important to us". The ceremony took place at a Johannesburg night-club and was performed by a church minister. After toasting each other with champagne, the couple led their friends onto the dance floor.

UK

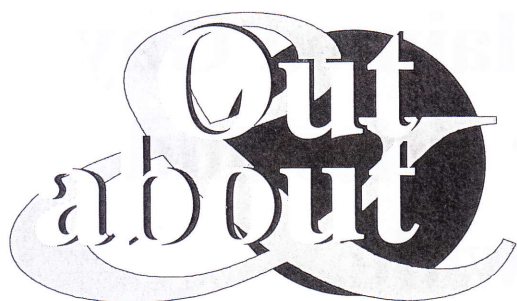
Elton John, who helped raise millions of pounds for AIDS research received a Commander of the Order of British Empire (CBE) award. From the Queen's New Year's Honours list. The list also recognises hundreds of people unknown outside their local communities who are nominated by admirers for their work. John was recognised "for services to music and for charitable services".

The Internationally acclaimed Gay
guide covers all major cities and
countries world-wide.



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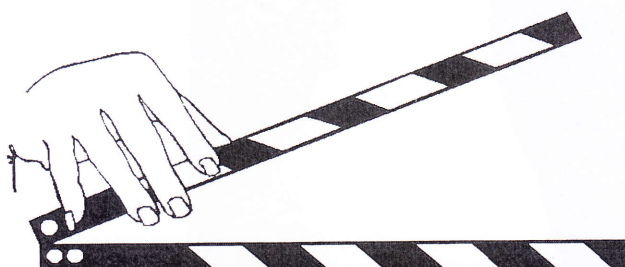
Y e a h ,
Shoplifters will be bound, gagged and have hot wax poured up their bottoms.
S u r e
Fetish Fashion's warning of what will happen to shoplifters.

Quote of The Month

"I think that this registered-partnership idea is good—very progressive and very modern. In Britain you get all these [gay] people wanting to get married and I think that marriage is such a redundant concept—and a heterosexual concept. It was created to suppress people and especially women."

Jimmy Somerville

We are taking our annual break over Lunar New Year. We'll be back at the hot presses in time for the April issue. Until then keep the news, articles and stories coming—our post-box and fax machine will stay open. All orders and enquiries will be dealt with the very minute we get off that plane!



The Lesbian & Gay Film Festival

Will be this year held in May at a date still to be decided. It's later than usual, not because they organisers can't get it together but because they want more local participation, said the Art Centre's film department manager Jimmy Choi. "We're specifically looking for local Lesbians who can work in a team to tell us what films we should be showing," he said. If you're interested call Jimmy Choi at the Arts Centre on 2582 0283.

Propaganda

Start the Chinese New Year off with a bang. The first party for the year of the Rat will be held on Sunday 19th February at the ever popular night-spot. Usual times and prices.



Deviant Zone
 The latest (actually it's been open some while) Gay Karaoke bar is the quaintly named Deviant Zone. Reminds you a bit of daring to do things that are forbidden, doesn't it? Deviant Zone is on the 1/F 21, D'Aguilar Street, Lan Kwai Fong, Central, Hong Kong.

THIS WAY



In our enthusiasm last month we forgot to list the address of Q. Thanks to our vigilant readers, we are happy to correct it this month: 33, Tong Chong Street, Quarry Bay. Tel: 2563-2177

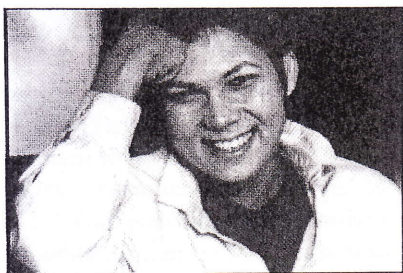
1

Short Supply

A number of outlets ran out of stock of Contacts Magazine very early last month. We were sorry to hear that: to all those who couldn't get their copy we suggest you subscribe. That way you are guaranteed getting a copy and getting it early.

2

Male Club #4 is completely sold out and what's worse for those who didn't buy in time. There isn't going to be anymore. Ever.



Mandy Boursicot

With an impressive five overseas shows in just two years, Mandy's latest show is, visions through water. Renowned for her beautiful and graceful nudes, Mandy's works inspire a vision of truth though the nude. The collection showcases a marvellously vivid range of work. Lush portraits of reclining nudes, languorous half-lit late afternoons melting into evening, passion, desire and fulfilment. You can witness Mandy's latest show, it will be at the Hong Kong Arts Centre from 18th to 24th March.

The new, yet to be named, Gay bar is to be found in Glenealy, Central very close to Propaganda. Run by the people who own Wyndham Thai and with effervescent former staff from Petticoat Lane the bar is sure to be a winner. The opening date has, we understand, been delayed until late March.

Why the Pink Triangle?

By Barrie Brandon

In Germany they first came for the communists,
and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist.

Then they came for the Jews,
and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew.

Then they came for the trade unionists,
and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Catholics,
and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant.

Then they came for me and by that time no one was left to speak up."

— Pastor Martin Niemöller

Transformed by Gays from a mark of Nazi persecution into an emblem of Gay liberation, the pink triangle has gained great support from Gay communities all around the world. In Malaysia for example the

national Gay AIDS group is the Pink Triangle.

Eighteen Million people - Jews, Africans, Homosexuals, Gypsies, the handicapped, POW's, Jehovah's Witnesses, leftists, Artists, Drug Users—were locked up in 520 concentration camps and sub-camps across Europe, according to generally accepted estimates used to teach German school children about Nazi Crimes.

Eleven million, about half of them Jews gassed in extermination camps, never saw the outside world again.

Those thought to be a threat to the Fatherland were taken prisoner and placed in concentration camps. These prisoners were from many different social and cultural backgrounds. To distinguish between the prisoners, the Nazis used a system of colour coded cloth badges making it easy to find their targets in the crowd. Jews were given yellow stars; Half-Jews were given yellow triangles; Feminists and Lesbians were given black triangles; Gypsies were given brown; and Gay men made to wear a pink triangle. The green triangle was given to 'common criminals' or those who had been convicted of minor crimes, including drug law violators.

A declaration signed in October last year by eight survivors, now living in Germany, France, Poland and the Netherlands said, "The world we hoped for did not transpire," They called for the memorialising and

documenting of Nazi atrocities against Gays and others.

Between 10,000 and 15,000 Gays are believed to have been incarcerated in the camps. Perhaps 60 percent of those in the camps died; meaning that even in 1945, there may have been only 4,000 survivors. Today, fewer than 15 survivors are known to be alive.

"In the SS, today, we still have about one case of homosexuality a month. In a whole year, about eight to ten cases occur in the entire SS. I have now decided upon the following: In each case, these people will naturally be publicly degraded, expelled, and handed over to the courts. Following completion of the punishment imposed by the courts, they will be sent, by my order, to a concentration camp, and they will be shot in the concentration camp, while attempting to escape." *Heinrich Himmler, 18 February 1937.* (Quoted in Michael Burleigh and Wolfgang Ippenmann, *The Racial State: Germany 1933-1945.*)

Their trials did not end at liberation. They were still officially regarded as criminals, rather than as political prisoners, since Paragraph 175 remained in force in West Germany until 1969. They were denied reparations and the years they spent in the camps were deducted from their pensions. Some survivors were even jailed again.

A good account of Gays in the concentration camps is given in Robert Plant's book "*Pink Triangle: The Nazi War Against Homosexuals*". The author, a Gay leftist Jew, escaped from Germany in the early thirties, first to Switzerland, then to the USA.

Today he has retired and lives in New York (The publication of this book caused Martin Sherman to write his play *Bent* about Gay men in the concentration camps.) A personal account of what happened to Gays

in the concentration camps is given in Heinz Heger's *The Men with the Pink Triangle.*

In October 1991 three Gay Holocaust survivors told their story for the first time in *We Were Marked with a Big 'A'*, a video documentary produced for German television.

"It is so absurd to be punished for love," one of the survivors said. He was arrested after a friend broke under torture by the SS and revealed the names of his Gay acquaintances.

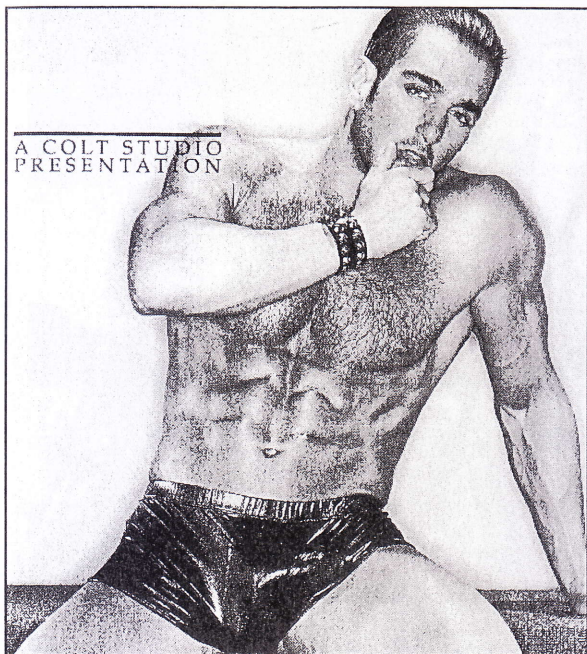
Another survivor said 'You learned to turn off your emotions,'.

No Gay survivors told their story before television cameras until this documentary was produced. As late as 1969 Gays were still being arrested by the then West German police under the same law used by the Nazis to imprison thousands of German Gays, so they kept silent.

Approximately 100,000 men were arrested under Paragraph 175 of the German criminal code, which allowed the imprisonment of any "male who commits lewd and lascivious acts with another male." (The law was silent on Lesbianism, although individual instances of persecution of Lesbians have been recorded.)

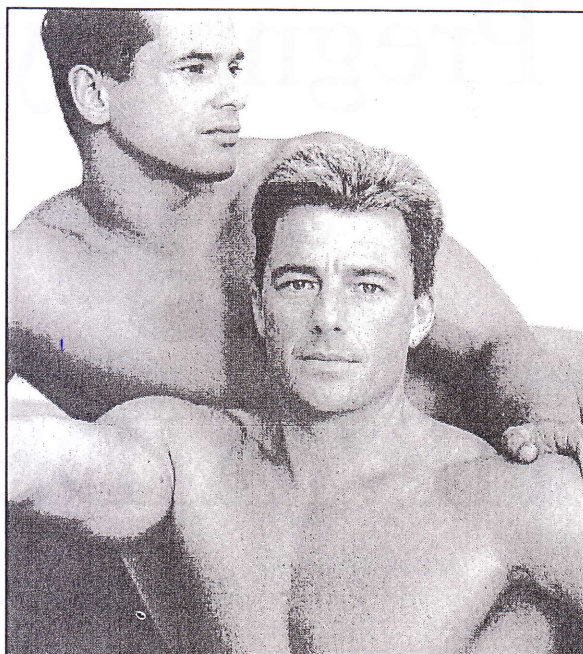
The pink triangle, worn inverted on the lapel, is not only used as an individual sign of pride and solidarity but also by many Gay businesses to make it easy for Gay people to identify them.

Although few Gays in Hong Kong dare to wear the pink triangle, as the Gay scene and community develop we will be looking for ways to solidify our position. Wearing the pink triangle, first used to vilify Gays, might be the first step on the road to a united Gay community.



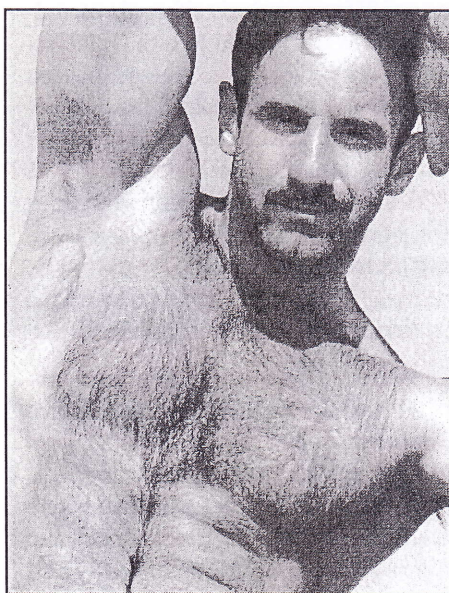
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Pregnancy & HIV/AIDS

by Femmyh Bosman



Women with HIV (Human Immune deficiency Virus) have a right to make their own decisions about pregnancy, childbirth and breastfeeding. A world wide discussion about this topic is just starting as a result of the rapidly growing group of HIV infected women. This article gives some information about the risks and benefits of different options for seropositive pregnant women and implications in the long term. AIDS has a strong impact on social life. For women with HIV the choice to have a baby or an abortion is only one out of a range of problems they are dealing with. In general it would be wise to have an HIV test before getting pregnant. A lot of women may think they are not at risk because they have no male sex partners and have never had a blood transfusion. But although Lesbian love has a lower chance for HIV transmission, there are other ways of getting the disease. For example when she wants to get pregnant through self-insemination, and she doesn't know if her donor is HIV negative. When a woman is aware of her HIV status she can take precautions and look for appropriate medical care during pregnancy, delivery and when nourishing the baby.

A study in Thailand, conducted by the Free University of Amsterdam and the Hotline Centre Foundation in Bangkok, showed that the increase of HIV affected pregnancies doubled in one year (1% in 1992, 2 % in 1993). Health care organisations in Thailand were not prepared for counselling HIV positive pregnant women. Questions they are dealing with are: should a sero-positive woman be advised to have an abor-

tion? What is the risk for the child? How can society deal with the problems of orphans?

In many hospitals pregnant women are getting an HIV test routinely although, according to the WHO (World Health Organisation), every person has to give permission to do the test. Some hospitals use a standard form in which the question is included: "Do you have any objections against an AIDS test?". But whether with or without permission, it's hard for a woman to be confronted with a positive test result while pregnant. Even harder to learn about the fact through the sickness of the child.

Not all infants born to HIV positive mothers will be infected. The average chance for transmission of the disease is between 20-30%. In Western countries the rate is lower and in Africa higher percentage were found between 25-40%, probably because of breastfeeding. It's not possible to know in advance if the child will be infected, a test can show it after the baby is 18 months old.

There are three ways of HIV transmission from mother to child: in the womb, at delivery and during breastfeeding.

*During pregnancy the virus can cross the placenta. When the mother's blood has a high virus load than the transmission rate is higher. Treatment of the pregnant woman with AZT, a strong medicine against AIDS, diminishes the transmission rate for the child by two-thirds. But the influence of the medicine on the development of the child is unknown. Also the mother may become resistant to this drug by the time she needs it.

*During delivery the transmission occurs by mixing maternal and infant blood. An option to diminish the chance by 50% is by caesarean section. However this implicates more risks for the mother.

*Breastmilk contains a low amount of HIV virus; the extra risk for transmission is about 15%. In many countries the child has more chance to die because of diarrhoea when not breastfed because of poor hygiene and shortage of milkpowder. Therefore the WHO recommends breastfeeding in low income situations.

With all these figures it's easy to forget that the chance to get an healthy baby is a lot bigger than to get an infected child.

Decision making for an HIV positive woman who wants a baby are very complicated. The social impact in such a situation is enormous. Will the family or partner take care of the child when the mother gets sick or dies? Health workers in Thailand don't expect that the number of AIDS orphans will be as great as in Africa. Thai families are not as big as African families, so grandparents should be able to look after these children. It's wise to arrange these practical matters before the mother get sick. Also the community has to learn what it means to live with a person who has HIV/AIDS. Normally people will be frightened to get the disease from simple contact. A lot of information is needed to make life easier for those with AIDS.

Information about HIV/AIDS is available free from WHO-DST, CH 1211 Geneva 17, Switzerland and through AIDS organisations in Hong Kong.

AIDS THE TEST

By Zeljka

-- Good morning

-- 'Eliza test?

-- Yes.

-- Fill in the form, the lady over the glass said.

-- Next please.

An unknown girl is taking the paper. We are waiting...

She, me and our fear.

A call. I am entering.

A doctor in the white coat.

-- Sit down.

He puts on the green cloak for operation halls.

A cap and a mask on his face.

The unpleasant sound of the rubber gloves.

He takes the blood. Takes off the protection suit.

Throws everything in the garbage can. Without words.

He is standing by the desk pushing the bill with his hand,

- Pay and come tomorrow.

I am waiting for the morning.

- Yes, we have the tests. Everything is in order.

Here are your results.

Then, after turning his back to me he addresses the girl from yesterday:

- I am sorry, but you are HIV positive. The counseling section is on the II floor.

I am really in a hurry.

The girl is in the hall.

Standing and crying...alone.

Reprinted from 'Arhiva'

Ad Rejected

One of Hong Kong's largest and newest newspapers, *Apple Daily*, has rejected an ad from the gay organisation Horizons. Horizons operates a counselling hotline and runs gay support and recreational groups. "They insist [on their refusal] even though we [told them we will] be issuing press releases to all Hong Kong media stating that *Apple Daily* discriminates against gays and lesbians, and will approach legislators for further action," Kong said.

They rejected our advertising on the hotline because they thought it would generate "public fear" and it is not a risk worth taking for "people like us" said Horizons Secretary Daniel Kong. "This is exactly what their advertising director, Mr. David Keung told us. We ended up putting the advertisements in the *Hong Kong Daily News* instead at half the cost and generated quite good phone traffic" Daniel went on to say.

Marriage

The *Economist* recently ran a feature article on same sex marriage. Reprinted, in the *South China Morning Post*, without the eye-catching cover showing two bridegrooms holding hands on a wedding cake.

The leading article *Let them wed* is a powerfully positive analysis of the rationale for allowing *Gay marriage* (including a brief mention of Hawaii), presented with "There is no compelling reason to exclude homosexual couples from marriage, and several compelling reasons to include them". And the "Moreover" section has three pages (76-78) on "it's normal to be queer" discussing what it calls "the extraordinary new ordinariness of homosexuality in many countries": the social and legal status of Gay people world-wide.

It includes mentions of International Lesbian and Gay Association and Rex Wockner, a Gay reporter. Rex Wockner is a San Francisco-based journalist. Among other things, he covers breaking news for 70 gay publications and newscasts in 35 U.S. states and 13 countries. Since 1985, he has written for over 175 gay publications the all over the world..

The article is followed by a whole-page review of Andrew Sullivan's *Virtually Normal*, which no doubt helped to inspire this mainstream coverage.

Indeed, it is all very sensible and positive, as is the accompanying article called something like "It's normal to be queer". I encourage all to read these articles. The fact that the *Economist*, of all institutions, is addressing the issue of same-sex marriage says a lot.

25% Lesbian

The totally over the top claim by ATV reporter Emily Maitlis that 25% of the Filipino amahs are, at least while they are away from home, Lesbian caused what I can only describe as the biggest gaffe of the decade—as well as giving the *Eastern Express* the largest post-bag it has ever had.

Leaving aside for the moment the overt xenophobia that an ungodly number of Hong Kongers display at the drop of a hat, the claim is clearly not realistic nor does it have any scientific base whatsoever. It was arrived at solely by a social worker deciding that any woman who had short hair was acting out a tom-boy attitude. That in itself is both offensive and homophobic.

Some of the letters were very supportive, some amusing, some horrifying and others downright stupid. I leave it to discerning readers of *Contacts Magazine* to decide which was which.

Some of the things the letter writers said:

"How can we tell our children about buggery? How can we explain the different women the maid brings home? And how can we reason about the trousers, rolled up sleeves, the hair cropped like a man, the men's clothes"? *Linda Ching*

"It is astounding what some foreigners would do to be seen to be fighting on behalf of Filipinos. Why would a non-Filipino want to stand up and be heard on behalf of Manila's maids"? *Rose Sombrio*

"For local employers to fire maids they suspect of lesbianism is, typical Hong Kong behaviour, since Chinese prejudice has long been ingrained" *Carla Rodriguez*

"Besides, by choosing to become lesbians, we are least keeping our population down". *B Balagtas*

"I agree that Lesbians are a threat to the fabric of society and that people who defend their rights must be monitored"? *John Lamond*

"Lesbians and Gays are human beings so let's respect their feelings. It is not astonishing that Lesbians wear men's underwear and gays wear women's underwear. This is their nature so why debate this. It is up to the individual to get involved or have a relationship with a lesbian or gay". *Nora Dulatre*

"What Filipinos do in their private time, as long as it does not affect the work, is their own business". *Robin Parker*

"As for explaining kissing and cuddling to children, I find it much harder to explain war, rape, muggings and wife-beating". *Keith Marshall*

Perhaps all the letters could be summed up by one from *George Bigelow*: "Those who persecute homosexuality had better start in their own back yard. I may not condone homosexuality but who am I to tell someone what is natural or unnatural? We need education and understanding, not extremist views in our society".

OOG

ORIENTAL GUYS
ISSUE NO. 15

HK\$320

SRI LANKA:
Heaven on Earth?

VIETNAM'S
AIDS ILLUSION

TRANYS &
DRAG QUEENS
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How's Y O U R ESQ?

(Ethnic Sex
Quotient)

freely adapted
from
a similar quiz

By Dan Gawthorp

**NO Peeking at the scores!
Enjoy!**

1. A language barrier between you and another guy means

- a) Move on to the next person
- b) A challenge to learn something new
- c) A one-night stand for sure

2. Of all your relationships with other guyz, how many were based exclusively on sex?

- a) Most of all
- b) About half
- c) None, I'd rather get to know a guy first before having sex with him.

3. Do you always insist on taking the same role in bed?

- a) Yes
- b) No, we switch
- c) I don't believe in sex roles; we do everything every way.

4. When was the last time you had sex with another guy without having to convince your friends it really happened?

- a) In the last month
- b) In the last year
- c) Never

5. A guy with a hairy chest or smooth skin (whichever you don't have) makes you:

- a) Nauseous
- b) Indifferent
- c) Horny

6. If you have the choice, do you insist on going to bars where you can meet the kind of people that appreciate guyz?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Don't go to bars

7. Are you a member of an East-West club? a) Yes

- b) No

8. How many copies of Gay magazines with the kind of guyz you like, do you buy each year?

- a) As many as you can find
- b) More than 12 copies a year
- c) None

9. When in London, Amsterdam or Paris, do you make a point of going to an East West club there?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Of course, - I am a past committee member

10. What is the age gap between you and your lover, (or average if you've had lots)?

- a) 10 years or more
- b) 2-5 years
- c) Less than 2 years

11. Who does the cooking?

- a) Me
- b) Him
- c) Both

12. Who does the cleaning?

- a) Me
- b) Him
- c) Both

13. Who does the grocery shopping and odd jobs?

- a) Me
- b) Him
- c) Both

14. The lover (who matches your culture) in the film The Wedding Banquet was:

- a) the ideal lover and a well-evolved human being
- b) Not a realistic character; he was too egalitarian
- c) A spineless twerp who should have quit the relationship long ago.

This questionnaire has been Politically Corrected, but may have lost something in the process and for this we apologise to the originator and the Asian and Friends magazine from which it was adapted.

Scores and points

5(c) 01(q) 0(a)-4I	0(c) 01(q) 0(a)-3I
0(c) 01(q) 0(a)-2I	0(c) 01(q) 0(a)-1I
0(c) 5(q) 01(I)-0I	01(c) 0 (q) 01(e)-6
0 (c) 5(q) 01(I)-8	0(q) 01(I)-7
0(c) 01(q) 3(I)-9	5(c) 0(q) 01(e)-5
01(c) 4(q) 1(e)-4	0(c) 5(q) 01(e)-3
2(c) 8(q) 01(a)-2	01(c) 2(q) 5(I)-1

Your Score

5-20:

This could mean one of two things. Either you have no interest in guyz from other cultures at all, in which case you should get out a bit more and socialise. Or, it could mean that you're truly a saint and don't base your relationships exclusively on sex. If this is the case, you are the more attractive for it. Don't despair you have a low ESQ.

21-50:

Hey, at least you're versatile. You enjoy experimenting and don't limit yourself to just self abuse. Good for you!

51-75:

You probably have more than a passing interest in East/West culture, which means you are culturally aware of other ethnic guyz.

76-99:

You are definitely driven by Sex. Not a bad thing, but you might want to watch yourself now and then. You probably have a tendency to idealise about your dream guy.

100-140:

You are really Sex Mad about men from other cultures; your fascination with them is teetering on the edge of obsession. You could really benefit from some cross-cultural sensitivity training.

Buddhist's

on marriage

The founder of Buddhism was Siddhartha Gautama, the Sakyamuni, the fully Enlightened one. He was born a Prince on the Indian sub-continent, in a country which is now part of Nepal, more that 2,500 years ago. It was the accepted practice for some men to leave hearth and home and lead an ascetic's life as a wanderer, to find answers to the mysteries of life, of birth, suffering and death. At age 29, he tired of the pleasures of palace life and left to join the ascetics. After 6 years of wandering and intense meditation, he gained Enlightenment and became Buddha. His teachings have been called "the Middle Way", for he was convinced that neither mortification of the flesh nor the hedonistic way of life were conducive to reaching the state of Nirvana; the ending of the relentless cycle of rebirths and attendant suffering, referred to as Samsara.

He offered the Four Noble Truths which lead to the Eight-fold Path: right view, right thought, right speech, right action or conduct, right livelihood, right effort, right attentiveness and right concentration. The Sangha, the monks and nuns of the Theravada School, who forsake the lay life and follow in the footsteps of Sakyamuni, abide by the ten main precepts and over 200 other lesser ones. One of these ten says: "I will not indulge in any sexual activity". Was sex proscribed because it was a sin? Not at all! Sex was and still is considered the strongest of all attachments, bonds, the glue that binds us to Samsaric life.

Practising lay Buddhists keep the 5 precepts of Right Conduct, helping us to lead moral lives. One of them is—"I undertake



to observe the precept to abstain from sexual misconduct". So, what is sexual misconduct? Buddha's admonition was "above all, do no harm, to others or to oneself". so my understanding of sexual misconduct, when defined by that admonition, would include adultery, rape, child molestation and sexual harassment. On the other hand, it would not include monogamous Gay sexual conduct.

Marriage is treated as a social contract, a civil affair in Buddhist countries, and there are no religious ramifications associated with it. And in Theravada countries of Burma, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Laos and Cambodia and, to an extent, parts of Vietnam, whether married or not, the lay person is expected to practice the 5 precepts of Right Conduct.

Buddha, during his 45 years of ministry, was reaching out to and teaching a stratified people whose social and religious lives were controlled by a rigid caste system,

based on the accident and circumstances of birth.

He taught that everyone, from lowborn to highborn, man, woman and child could aspire to Nirvana, even in that very life. This was heresy, unheard of before, for he was proclaiming Equal Rights to the noblest of goals. He accepted everyone without prejudice, either as ordained disciple or lay follower. During his lifetime, among his followers were kings, queens, princes, princesses, wealthy merchants, poor folks, people of all walks of life, including a leper, a reformed and repentant murderer and 3 courtesans, whom nowadays we would refer to as call girls.

In a nutshell: Sex is not a sin. It is one of the sensual pleasures, attachment to which is cause for being enmeshed in Samsara and a hindrance to achieving Nirvana.

Sexual conduct for lay Buddhists, when viewed by the dictates of Right Conduct, would exclude activities that would harm others or oneself. But sexual conduct between monogamous Gay partners would be permissible under the third precept. Since marriage encourages commitment and faithfulness, thereby deterring promiscuity, it would be a great social boon to allow, to extend that status, to the 2 latter kinds of partners. Society would benefit from stabilised relationships and the sense of emotional security that would ensue.

Sakyamuni Buddha's teachings all pointed to Equal Rights and Human Rights. And there is nothing in his teachings that would be considered a deterrent to same gender marriage.

Thanks to the Hawaii Association of International Buddhists

NIGHTMARE OF LOVE

By Tom Keske

Sometimes, the phrase 'I love you' is used unthinkingly, like saying please or thank you, or a mere pleasantry such as 'how do you do'? We have said them at some-time, I suspect, largely because it is has been the appropriate thing to say, or because social expectations compel us.

Is my love real? Do I just say it? Is it more real for other people? Most people have moments of secret doubts, they might wonder if they are really competent and confident at their professions, or have been faking for years.

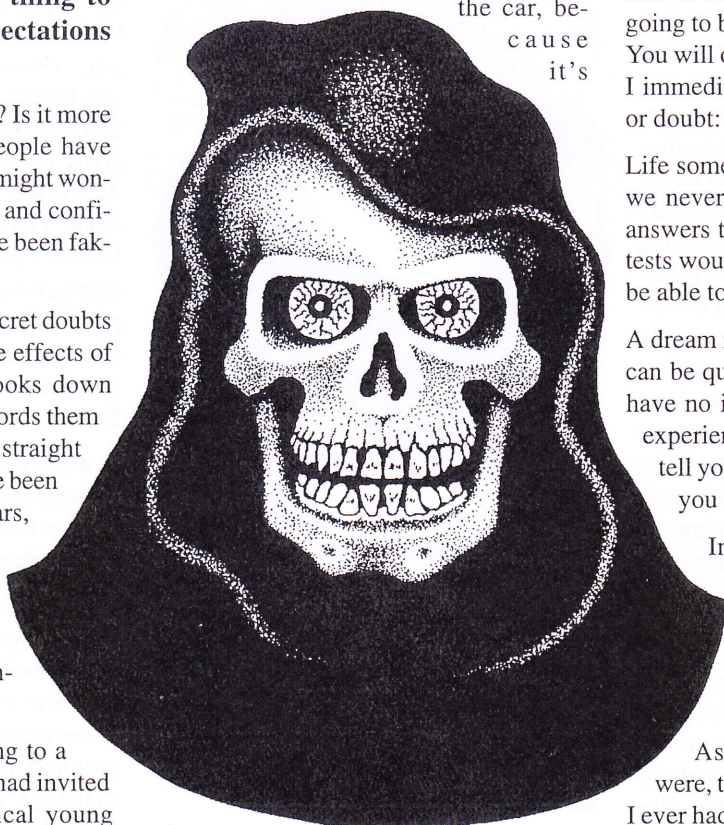
Probably, for Gay people, the secret doubts are even worse, considering the effects of a disapproving society that looks down upon our relationships, and accords them no respect. I had dinner with a straight friend, and mentioned that I have been with my lover for nearly 24 years, he remarked with surprise what a "stable relationship" it was. But the subtle implication was still there: Gay people aren't supposed to have relationships that last.

Some years ago, I was speaking to a group of nursing students who had invited Gay speakers. One very cynical young woman remains etched in my memory, asking accusingly: "Is it just sex?". She obviously had her mind made up, before she asked, that it must be all sex and no love, on the simple basis that it was two Gay men.

My lover has a bumper sticker on his car, "Gay by Nature, Proud by Choice". Often, we get positive response, people honking or giving "Thumbs up" signs. Sometimes, there will an anti-Gay epithet written in the fog on the windshield in the morning, or a car full of punks yelling and

making gestures. There is always the possibility hanging over you, that your lover will be found beaten or stabbed to death, or run off the road. The thought of this happening to someone so gentle and loving, who means everything to you, is agony. But he is very proud of having the sticker on

the car, because it's



what we need to do, to make Gay people real to the world, to put a human face on our kind.

Conservatives who think that we are just being "in their face" have no idea what it's like to be Gay.

Sometimes, I have odd nightmares, feeling almost as if I were a lab rat. Alien scientists trying to poke and study me, or maybe the heavens trying to make judgments, by putting me in classic "test" situations. What would you do if hostages were

being taken: would you offer yourself, instead? What would you do if you saw a gang with knives, chasing your lover, trying to kill him? Would you run to his side?

As I ran, in my dream, without the slightest hesitation to my lover's side, a voice said to me "You aren't armed. What are going to be able to do against armed men? You will only get yourself killed, as well." I immediately replied, with no hesitation or doubt: "Let them kill two".

Life sometimes is so bland and mundane, we never are tested enough to know the answers to such questions. While the real tests would be painful, it is a shame not to be able to know the truth.

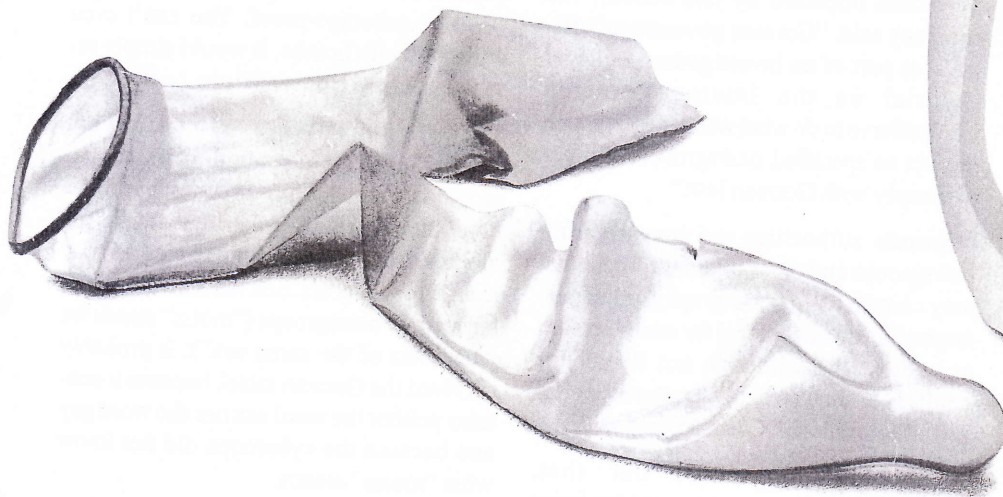
A dream is just a dream, but at the time, it can be quite vivid. When it happens, you have no idea that it isn't real. It's not an experience that can be shared, but it can tell you something about who and what you are.

In another dream, my lover had been killed. As I cried and wailed, the assailants were laughing and mocking me. I could only say with sadness, "Kill me, too."

As hideous as these nightmares were, they were the best nightmares that I ever had. Because, there was my lover in the morning, still alive, still safe. And there was I, with every last trace of secret, self-doubt erased from mind, the crystal clear realization that our love was as worthy as that of any lovers who ever walked the earth. The vivid dream, while not real, had given me a new insight into reality, a new confidence and new perspective.

Life today is certainly a very trying nightmare for Gay lovers. Maybe the outcome will be something redeeming, when all the twists, turns, and surprises of life are finished.

Oil and condoms don't mix.



Baby oil, olive oil, butter, even Vaseline. If it contains oil, keep it away from condoms. It can ruin them.

So if you're using oil to give each

other a massage, have a towel or tissue handy to wipe your hands.

And don't use anything as a lubricant that might contain oil.

Such a moisturiser like Nivea, or

a hand cream. Even soap and shampoo have oil in them.

The only safe lubricant is a water-based one. KY is an example.

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The CompuServe on-line service deleted more than 200 Internet Usenet newsgroups from its worldwide system on 27th December, saying it was responding to a "direct mandate from the prosecutor's office in Germany."

Gay newsgroups were hit hard in the sweep. Non-sexually oriented groups that were banned include soc.support.youth.gay-lesbian-bi, clari.news.gays, alt.homosexual, alt.motss.bisexual, gay-net.coming-out, gay-net.international and shamash.gayjews.

Usenet newsgroups are message boards where one Internet user posts a comment and others respond minutes, hours or days later. There is no live interaction. There are over 16,000 Usenet newsgroups, a few of which carry erotic stories or photos.

In a press release, CompuServe said the censored newsgroups were "specifically identified to CompuServe by the German authorities as illegal under German criminal law."

"CompuServe did not select any groups or determine the nature of the newsgroups that have been impacted by this action," the company said. "German government officials, as part of an investigation of illegal material on the Internet, ordered CompuServe to do what was necessary with respect to specified newsgroups in order to comply with German law."

"German authorities are investigating newsgroups and other Internet content that may contain child pornography, other pornographic material illegal for adults, as well as content that although not illegal for adults is of such an explicit nature that it is illegal for minors," CompuServe said.

The company pointed out that, "CompuServe, as an access provider, is not responsible for the origination or nature of content on the Internet over which it has no creative or editorial control."

CompuServe "is investigating ways in which we can restrict user access to selected newsgroups by geographical location," the company said.

In fact, CompuServe users who know their way around the Internet can use any number of Internet tools to traverse cyberspace from within CompuServe and view the banned newsgroups elsewhere. Ultimately, anything generally available on the Net anywhere in the world can, one way or another, be accessed by any computer con-

nected to the Net. The Internet was designed — by none other than the United States of America's Department of Defense — to be sabotage-proof. You can't even destroy it with bombs; it would simply re-route around the devastation.

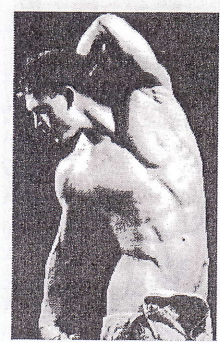
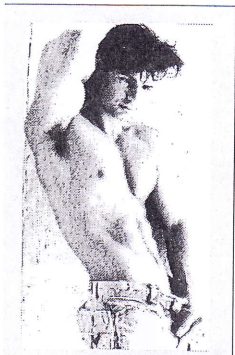
The simplest way to circumvent CompuServe's censorship is merely to cross-post messages between banned and non-banned groups — so that traffic for alt.homosexual is carbon-copied to, for example, soc.motss. Soc.motss is one of the busiest gay newsgroups ("motss" stands for "members of the same sex"); it probably survived the German attack because it contains neither the word sex nor the word gay and because the cybercops did not know what "motss" means.

CompuServe has 4 million subscribers in more than 140 countries.

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) strongly condemned CompuServe. "CompuServe has caved into threats from a German prosecutor, creating havoc for lesbian and gay newsgroups around the world," said GLAAD's managing director, William Waybourn in a strong letter of protest to CompuServe.

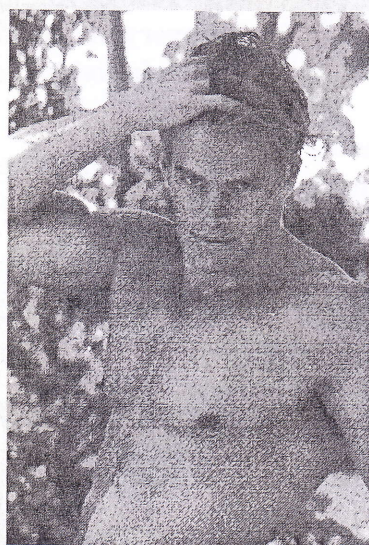
Denying access to or deleting these newsgroups merely leads to ignorance and prevents people from getting information or help when they need it," Waybourn said.

Beautiful Cards



**F
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Birthdays

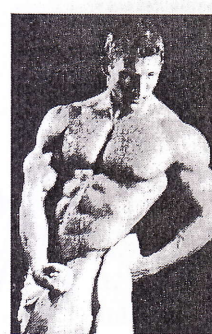


**F
O
R**

Best wishes



Whole set
of
9 cards

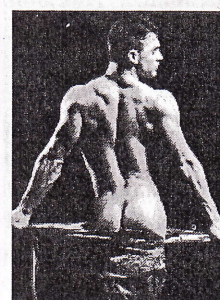
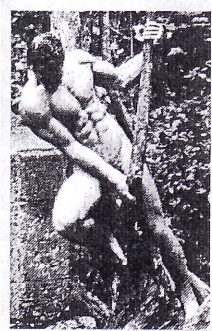


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YEAR

of the

Rat

By Billy Wong

Wondering how your Love life will be like in the Year of the Rat? Or your finance? Or your health? To give you some idea, perhaps Chinese Astrology can be of assistance.

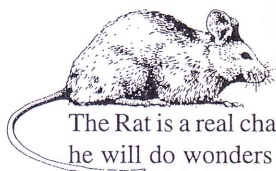
Legend has it that when the Lord Buddha was leaving this world, twelve animals came to bid him farewell. In gratitude, Buddha decided that one year be named after each of the twelve animals and would reflect the character of that particular ani-

mal. Anyone born in that year would also have its qualities.

The Year of Rat produces romance, or at least sex, for everyone; however, how successful it is depends on the individual and under which animal sign he is born.

The predictions below are light-hearted - don't lose too much sleep if you get a warning about your animal sign!

Don't however ignore the Wisdom of old China altogether, for it may hold more than a grain of truth.



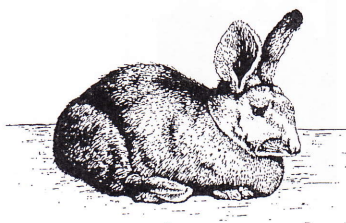
The Rat is a real charmer. As this is his year, he will do wonders with his charms. It is a great time to get a new job as he tends to be lucky in his career. He will be happy in love too, specially if he finds romance with a Monkey. However, he should not be a greedy rat and eat all his cheese at once. Rather he should store his gains for next year that may be a rainy one for him.



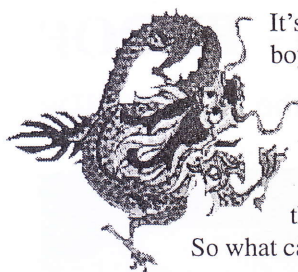
A fairly balanced year. The quiet but hardworking ox should gain some recognition of his work or even a promotion. In the Temple of Love, any romance may not be lasting but neither should any problems occur. Best to lie low, and take the philosophy, that "there's always next year".



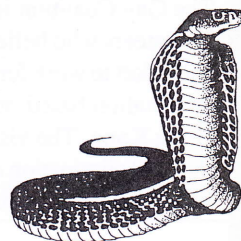
Not expected to be a roaringly successful year for the Tiger despite his strength, wisdom and courage. This animal should use his instincts carefully regarding his finances this year as the signs do not bode well for him. He must have a good feel for his environment before he pounces on anything. However he will have enjoyment in his social life and he may find a Sheep, Monkey or another Tiger to touch his heart romantically, so life is not going to be all that bad.



Different astrologers seem to have different predictions for the fluffy but diplomatic rabbit. One believes it is going to be a "Year of Betrayals" whilst another predicts it'll be a good calm year. Yet another predicts the innovative Rabbit will succeed in some new scheme. In any case, he should not delve too much into finance or trust people too much. In love, he may find it hard to trust his new friend; better wait and see, time will tell whether he is to be trusted! Health-wise be careful. Take care on doing new things and journeys as you may be prone to accidents this year.

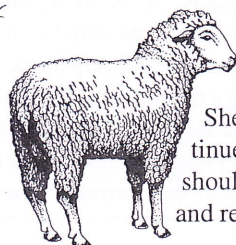


It's all systems go for the Dragon. His flamboyant character will attract Love this year - best do it with a Cock who practises Safer Sex. His financial standing should also be good and he should do well in his investments. Home front should be excellent and the Dragon may travel far to new horizons. So what can I say but enjoy, enjoy, enjoy!



If the Snake had a traumatic year last year now is the time for him to solve any underlying problems. However, he should not expect calm for too long. In fact it is going to be really hectic especially for those eco-conscious snakes. However, in the end his gains should outweigh his losses. If the Snake in love is keen to keep his partner, he should be totally honest with his partner & himself (!) and not be such a promiscuous animal. He's intelligent enough, so he should think through the consequences before doing anything.

Horses in the service or people orientated industry should take care. In Love & Sex, the Horse will not find it to be so straightforward - and should, by all means, avoid Cottaging unless he is willing to be caught and get into trouble; financial arrangements may be just as complicated! The Horse likes the finer things in life but this is not the time to overspend. Nor is it the best time to travel, even though he likes to gallop around the world.



The Sheep can expect a windfall this year, possibly from unexpected sources. He will find sex but not love which for a romantic animal like him, is not enough. Some Sheep will aspire to be healthier and fitter, and will continue to take interest in the performing arts. Travel-wise, it should be a trouble-free year. A good year to take things easy and relax.

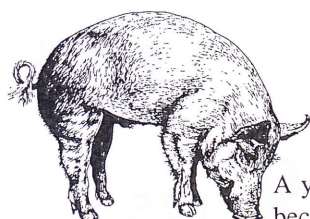
A howling good year for the dog. Romance and business seem to be going well for him. Travel is on the cards too, specially travelling East. The Dog, loyal in love, as in all other matters, is advised to go for another Dog or a Monkey if he wants to last. Making no bones about it, one should expect a golden year for him.















It's going to be a swinging good year! If it is bananas he wants, it will be bananas he gets, and as big as he likes them too. Not only that, people he will meet could be quality and important. Have romance with a Dog, but if it is with a Tiger, be careful for together you will create too much passion. Your health will have 'ups and downs,' and so will your financial balance. Don't overeat or you won't be the swinger that you are - you'll get to be a fat monkey!



May be a strenuous year for the bird. He has to watch not to put too many eggs in one basket - or too much trust in one partner he may find his partner wastes his money. Business isn't going to be good for him either. What should he do? Try being discreet and patient for the storm will soon pass, new openings will make him a proud bird again. In love, treasure every encounter; romance with a Dragon is best as it is as exotic as the cock and on the same wavelength.



A year of uncertainty really. In Chinese Horoscopes, the Pig is really a kind and generous animal but because of his generosity, others may take advantage of him; so he should take care. What he thinks he gained, especially in business, may be lost before he can say "Oink". Likewise, love and be more sensitive with your partner so you will not lose him.

											
子	丑	寅	卯	辰	巳	午	未	申	酉	戌	亥
1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911
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1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1933	1934	1935
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1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995

What is the Gay Coalition?

The Gay Coalition is an informal group of volunteers who believe it is worth the time and effort to work for the elimination of discrimination based on sexual orientation in Hong Kong. The vision of the Coalition is the total elimination of all areas of discrimination based on sexual orientation.

...And is its Purpose?

The Gay Coalition makes public statements for the Gay Community. We are unique in that we are not restricted by a charter which says "we are a support group, or we are a social organisation." This allows us to be an unbridled voice for our community. The Gay Coalition is restricted only by the skills, time, and energy of its members. Our secondary purpose is to co-ordinate efforts of Hong Kong Gay organisations in our struggle to achieve anti-discrimination laws.

Why is it so important?

No other Gay Organisation exists in Hong Kong whose goal is to eliminate discrimination. January 24 marked the beginning of the government's consultation period on discrimination based on sexuality, which will end March 31. So we have a very short time to influence the public, and make progress in reaching our goal.

What can you offer?

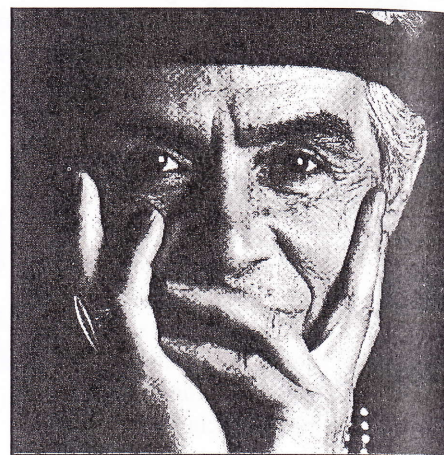
Volunteers all have different ideas of what is appropriate or achievable. We also differ in our personal interests, as well as ways in which we are willing to devote our time and energy. (Some of us prefer very low key and low visibility strategies, but some prefer to be more assertive.) Any effort or resource spent to achieve our goal is welcome. Any individual or group willing and able to work towards our goal is welcome to become involved.

Need more information?

Call and leave a message on 2801-4303. We are very happy to explain more about ourselves and our efforts in English or Chinese. Our meetings, that everyone is welcome to attend, are scheduled for Wednesday, 13th March, Wednesday 17th April, Wednesday 15th May, Wednesday 12th June, Wednesday 10th July. All meetings start at 7.30 in the evening. Call us to find out where.

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FOREWORD BY IAN McKELLEN

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Anti-Discrimination

By George Edwards

Last week, the Home Affairs Branch of the Hong Kong Government released, after a 'public' survey its long-awaited Consultation Paper on discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation.

Discrimination exists

In the Paper, the Government recognises that discrimination based on sexual orientation in Hong Kong exists and is widespread. In fact, discrimination, bias and prejudice based upon sexual orientation exists in every category which the Government purported to survey, including: general acceptance levels of homosexuals and bisexuals, social situations, public and private accommodations, employment, club membership, education, marriage, and family life.

Last year, in Hong Kong's Report to the United Nations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Hong Kong promised to study discrimination based on sexual orientation as an "area where there is a clear need for action." The Paper confirms the Government's suspicion - that discrimination based on sexual orientation is a big problem here. This recognition is a welcome step towards effecting measures to get rid of that discrimination.

Need Recognised

The Government recognises a need for anti-discrimination measures in Hong Kong. The Paper hits the nail on the head — it notes that the Survey found that public acceptance of homosexuality and bisexuality is low, and that only heterosexuality is normal.

That is precisely the attitude that homosexuals need to be protected against. If public acceptance were high, there might not be a need for protective legislation, because there would be no discrimination.

After much public debate on the issue of homosexuality in the 1980s, it was decriminalised in 1990. The issue of whether being gay is good or bad, mora-

or immoral, socially acceptable or unacceptable was settled. Resurrection of the issue is retrograde, and redundant.

Education

The Government concluded that the Hong Kong public would find it acceptable to discriminate against homosexuals in a wide variety of ways and situations, including in employment, accommodation, and provisions of service. It found that it is more appropriate to remedy discrimination by

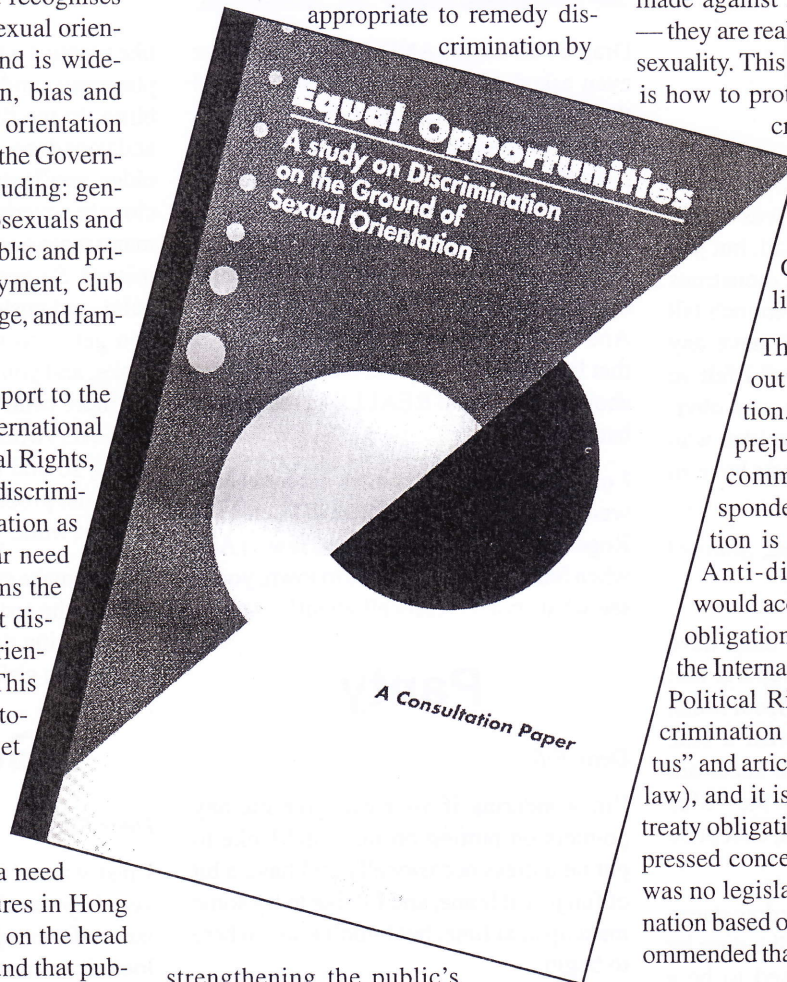
monwealth and other jurisdictions protect against discrimination based on sexual orientation. It looks to New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Denmark and the United States, which offer a wide range of legislative and other protective means. Hong Kong might endorse a legislative model based on one or more of these jurisdictions.

The Government never says that legislation will be ineffective. The only arguments made against legislation are red herrings — they are really arguments against homosexuality. This ignores the real issue, which is how to protect homosexuals from discrimination.

Compliance with international treaty obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and political rights

The Government has not ruled out anti-discrimination legislation. Given the overwhelmingly prejudicial and discriminatory comments made by Survey respondents, it is logical that legislation is appropriate and necessary. Anti-discrimination legislation would accord with international treaty obligations of Hong Kong pursuant to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, article 2(1) (non-discrimination based on "sex...or other status" and article 26 (equal protection of the law), and it is the best way to honour the treaty obligations. The United Nations expressed concern that in Hong Kong there was no legislation that prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation, and recommended that such legislation be adopted.

The Paper recognised there is wide-spread discrimination in Hong Kong, that anti-discrimination laws have worked in other jurisdictions, and similar laws can work in Hong Kong. "Civic Education" is not enough. Hong Kong needs legislation. Effecting such legislation will help satisfy the international treaty obligations under the ICCPR, as the United Nations reminded the Government last year, and would be one step forward for Hong Kong.



strengthening the public's concept of equal opportunities for all and civic education, rather than legislation.

Asking those with biased, prejudiced, and discriminatory attitudes how best to remedy their prejudice is not helpful. It is like asking the fox to hold onto the key to the chicken coop for safe keeping. Why not ask the victims whether they feel or are protected?

Elsewhere

The Paper points out that the laws of Com-



fifi



Tells All...

Stunned

Dear Fifi,

I went to the recent Shirley Bassey concert at the Cultural Centre. Shirley was a little late in arriving at the concert hall, but just before she arrived in walked a monstrous Drag Queen with a twenty seven inch tall rat's nest on her head. Do you have any idea who that Drag Queen was? I felt so embarrassed for her date who was obviously blind as a bat and had no idea who he was with. How could someone have so much nerve?

Signed, Stunned

Dear Stunned,

You may be stunned, but she must have been stoned. I heard several reports that she stepped off a flying saucer from Mars, but even Martians wouldn't wear a blue dress to a function where the seats are green! My mother always told me "Blue and green should never be seen, except on a fairy queen."

Seven and a half feet of amateur drag queen does not a fun evening make. She goes by the name Whore Nae, and used to be a friend of mine. We were best girlfriends until one day I asked her what happened to my favourite black silk organza wrap? Well she had the balls to tell me (it is hard to believe she still has balls, and she's hung like a horse too...) well, she told me that Roberto was making a new frock for her, and he ran out of black crepe, so Whore Nae told him to use my silk wrap. Can you imagine that?

She went and had a dress made with both crepe AND organza. That's what gives

Drag a bad name! AND... And, she never even asked me! Well I decided then and there that charity begins at home. I don't care if she does have to pinch her \$10 earrings from some ladyhawker up on Argyle street! And did you see those shoes she was wearing that night? Underneath that blue spray on glitter, was a layer of red, and then a layer of green, and then a layer of white.... And to top it all off, she didn't even get that little date of hers into the bed after the show! That's what REALLY gives Drag a bad name!

I on the other hand **always** score when I wear a dress (isn't that so Desmond? Roger? K.Y.? Chico? to name a few...) And when Sarah Vaughan comes to town, you'll see what style is really all about!

Panty

Dear Fifi,

I'm wondering if you can give me any pointers on putting on makeup? I like to put on a dress occasionally and have a bit of fun just at home, and I'd like to try some makeup next time, but I don't know where to begin.

Signed, Faceless

Dear Faceless,

The best advice I can give is to find some sucker to do it for you, preferably a cute one. That way you can just sit there. If he's any good, he'll concentrate, and won't notice you playing with him the whole time. Or at least he'll pretend he doesn't.

Next best bit of advice: do as much as you can while you're young. The older you get the more difficult it is. The difference is

like painting a wall which has already been plastered, and trying to paint a levelor blind. In the first case, one quick swoop, and you're done, beautiful. But when you get older, you'll see one swoop doesn't come close to covering it up because there are so many more nooks and crannies that you've missed. So you go back again with more paint, and push it into the cracks, and then you get nervous, and your hand starts to shake, and you can't do a good job, so you put more paint on the brush, and it starts to drip everywhere, and you get more frustrated, so you try another colour thinking that's the problem, and it's a real mess. So enjoy it while you can.

Finally, make sure you avoid daylight. They say that the girls all get prettier when it gets to be closing time, but this ain't true for us born again girls.

Goodbar

Dear Fifi,

I just wanted to let you know that I was very impressed with your authentic Hawaiian outfit this past month at Club 97. You looked absolutely delicious! But was that tool hidden under your grass skirt also authentic, or was that just a piece of latex?

Looking for Mr. Goodbar

Dear Child,

Of course it was real! My measurements are 38, 24, 9. Just ask Desmond, or any of his friends...

Until next time, keep the condoms coming. And if you have any more scintillating questions, you can reach Fifi at Box 555 Contacts Magazine.

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Update

Gay activist Peter Tatchell of London's OutRage! group nailed "Four Theses Against Church Homophobia" to the door of Westminster Abbey last month during the Anglican Church General Synod. (In 1517, the Protestant Reformation was launched when Martin Luther nailed "Ninety-Five Theses" to the Catholic cathedral in Wittenberg, Germany.)

"What's needed is a new Reformation to eradicate homophobia from the Church of England," Tatchell said. "Anglican endorsement of anti-Gay discrimination is a corruption of morality and a violation of the dignity of Lesbian and Gay people."

The document demanded the church "stop persecuting openly Gay clergy in honest and loving relationships, end the Children's Society ban on Lesbian and Gay foster parents, withdraw support from anti-Gay cults which attempt to 'cure' queers of their sexuality, [and] sack the bishops in the House of Lords who voted against an equal age-of-consent" for Gay and straight sex.

There was no immediate response from the Church of England.

Better Understanding

Readers will have noted an on-going dialogue between this magazine and Ian McFadzean. This culminated in a letter published in the December 1995 issue.

Since that date we have had discussions with Ian and now have a much better understanding with what he is trying to achieve within the community. In particular we have been impressed with his concern and humanitarian efforts with regard to People With AIDS (PWA's).

We have agreed to close a chapter in which this magazine was, occasionally, publicly critical of his style.

As a result of these discussions we have come to regret the language used in the letter (published December 1995). We understand that it caused Ian embarrassment for which we apologise.

This magazine has always provided a forum for a diversity of views within the community and with our better understanding of Ian's views we are happy to continue to work for the betterment of the community.

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步驟(三):將你的信、郵票及寫了姓名及地址的字條一起放入一個信封內,然後寄 Contacts Magazine G.P.O. Box 13427 Hong Kong.

Adverts for inclusion in the next issue should reach us by 3rd April. Fill in the form on page 29 or fax us on (852)2817-9120.

MEN

Chinese 33. Seeks stable sporty Chinese over 28 for friendship/relationship. Letter with photo appreciated. Box 197

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German, 47, 176cms, 77kgs, friendly and honest. Would like to hear from younger (-30). Sincere and cute Orientals for correspondance and maybe more. I'm a frequent traveller to Asian countries. Please write to: Boxholder, P.O.Box 210402, 80674 Munchen, Germany.

Singapore, Chinese, 37. Seek HK Business men who comes Singapore often for friendship. Age 37 to 45. Chubbies only, Photo. Box 196

Sydney Businessman university graduate 44 years, 165 cm, 70 kg, moustache, faithful, straight looks. Frequent visitor to meet for 1 to 1 friendship P.O.Box 318, Australia 2121.

Norway - Want to contact gay guys from China, Taiwan, Korea, Vietnam. Lets be friends and help each other too! Steve Mattsson, Box 423, 1801 Askim Norway or Fax(47)-22607316.

Dominique 32 years old, French male. Looking for friends (both sexes) for long true friendship. Box 203

Looking for a genuine friend? Aged 48, own home. Write Maurice Peacock, 23 Dances Way, Hayling Island Hampshire P011 PJP, England.



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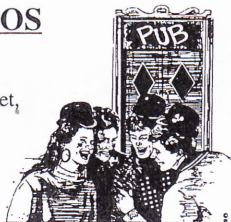
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Mag Building, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon.
Tel: 2376-2208, 3:30 pm - 1:00 am



Gay Guide

CENTRAL ESCALATOR

2/Fl., Cheung Hing Comm. Bldg.,
No. 37-43 Cochrane Street,
Central, Hong Kong.
Tel: 2581-9951, 1:00 pm - 1:00 am

GAME BOY'S

2/F, 324 Lockhart Road,
Wanchai, Hong Kong.
Tel: 2574-3215, 12:00 am - 2:00 am

JJ PARK

3/F, Flat A, Fairview Mansion,
51 Paterson Street.,
Causeway Bay, Hong Kong.
Tel: 2882-2399, 3:00 pm - 12:00 pm

KK

16/F, Block A,
Fuk Lok Bldg.,
19-21 Jordan Road,
Kowloon.
Tel: 2388-6138, 2:00 pm - 2:00 am

ROME CLUB

2/F Chiap Lee Bldg.,
27 Ashley Road,
Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon.
Tel: 2376-0602, 3:00 pm - 12:00 am

YUK TAK CHEE

G/F 123 Prince Edward Road.,
Kowloon.
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SHOPPING

● **FETISH FASHION**

1/F 52-60 Lyndhurst Terrace,
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GEAR

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COUNSELLING

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Tel: 2817-7129 (By appointment only.)

ST. JOHNS

St. Johns Cathedral, Garden Road,
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Tel: 2525-7207; 2525-7208

THE SAMARITANS

Tel: 2896-0000

• **Contacts Magazine**
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AIDS

INFORMATION

AIDS CONCERN

General Enquiries: 2898-4411
Helpline: 2898-4422.

AIDS FOUNDATION

General Enquires Tel: 2560-8528
Helpline: 2513-0513
Infoline: 170 222 170

AIDS HOTLINE

Tel: 2780-2211

HIV INFORMATION & DROP-IN CENTRE

St. John's Cathedral
Garden Road, Central,
Hong Kong
Tel: 2523-0531

SOCIAL GROUPS

HORIZONS

G.P.O.Box 6837 Hong Kong
Tel: 2359-3195
Social Activities

ISVARA

24D, 202 Reclamation Street, Kowloon
Tel: 1128903 a/c 8862 Mr. Lo
Gay Buddhist Group
Meets every 2nd Sunday of the month at Club 64
(Mainly Chinese Speaking)

SATSANGA

PO Box 92128, Tsim Sha TSui, Kowloon
Tel: 2314-1921
Forums, Workshops and social activities.
(Mainly Chinese speaking)

THE 10% CLUB

P.O.Box 72207 Central Post Office Kowloon.
Aims to raise social and political awareness. Some
political lobbying (Mainly Chinese speaking)
Tel: 2314-8726

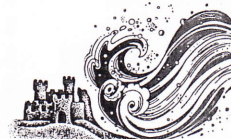
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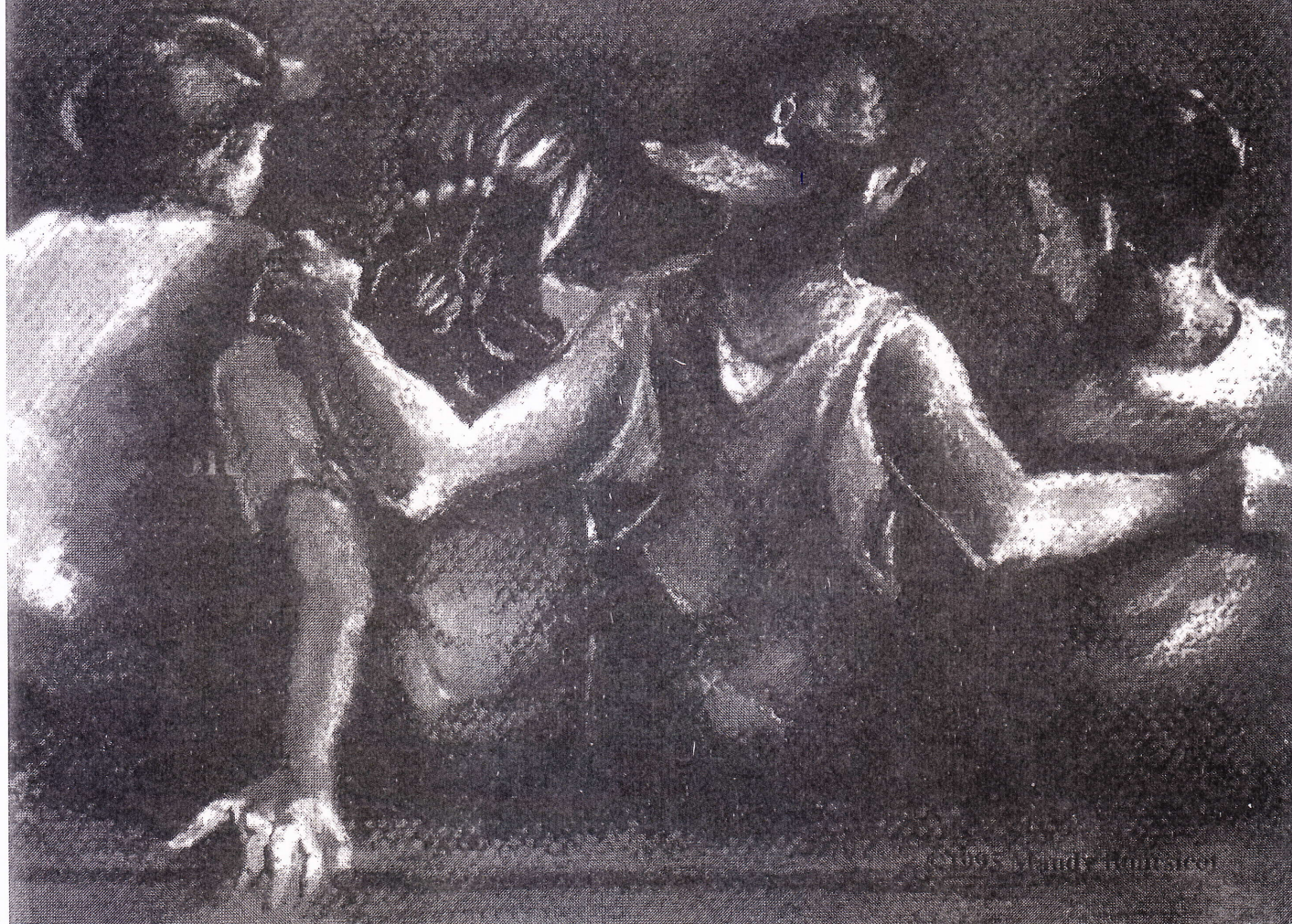
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You don't need to be alone

你並不孤獨



Call a friend ... 找你的朋友 . . .

2513 0513 and share our care and support
來分享我們的關注與支持，不用躊躇，即電25130513

我們會聆聽你的擔憂和解答你的疑問，而且所有在愛滋病熱線內傾談的內容絕對保密，包括閣下的身份。同樣，我們可以安排閣下做抗體測試，使閣下明白自己的HIV情況，如閣下是愛滋病帶菌／病患者更可參加我們的支持小組，使用我們的活動中心，還可收到Positive Link newsletter及PWA指南一書，我們會陪伴著你，去醫院或到住所探望你，假如閣下有需要申請援助金，我們可以為你申請。

你是絕對有權利享受美好人生，愛滋基金會永遠在你左右相陪，現在便致電我們的愛滋病熱線。

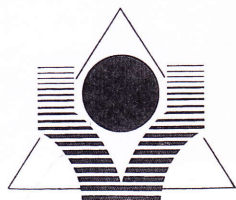
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If you are living with HIV/AIDS you can join our support group and use our Day Centre as well as receive our *Positive Link* newsletter and *PWA Guide Book*. We also offer help and advice when and if you decide to apply for a PWA support grant.

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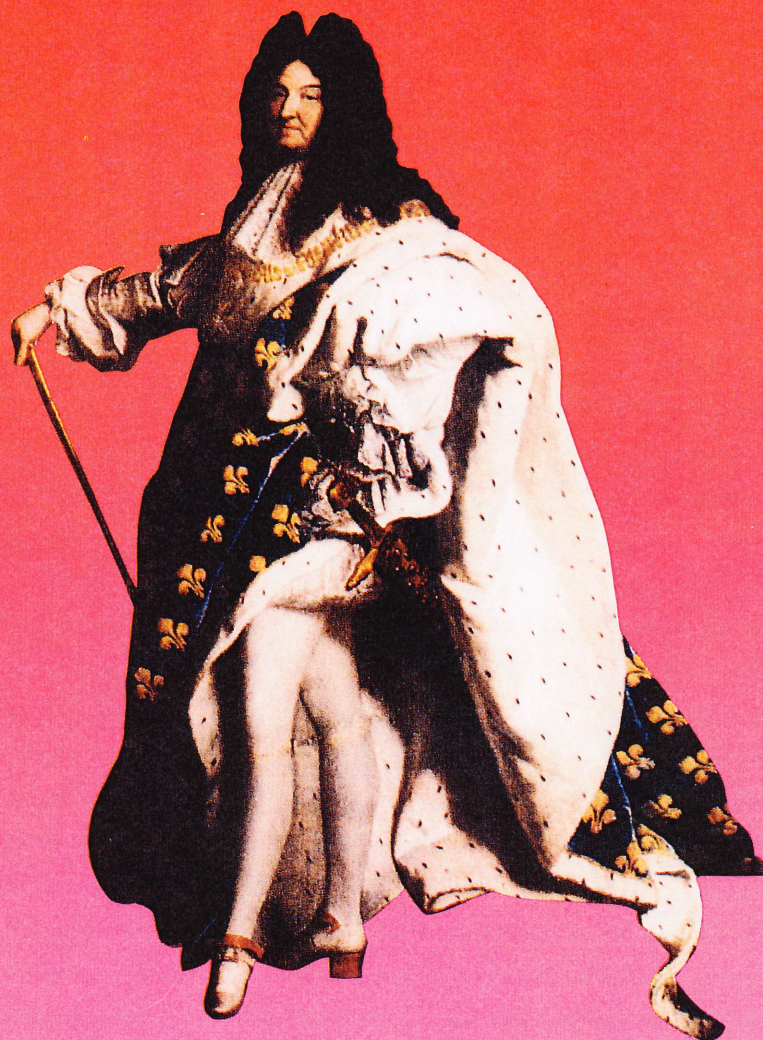
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